

Washington, DC - 12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) announced today that the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) is slated to receive a \$773,420 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, part of the National Institutes of Health. Spread out over the next five years, the money will help support postdoctoral fellows and graduate students studying neurodegenerative disease and neural repair at the state's health sciences university.

This fall, MCG begins a neuroscience program for graduate students in biomedical science. The recently established Institute of Neuroscience at MCG is the administrative base for the teaching program.

"Stroke and neurodegenerative diseases affect millions of Americans and their families each and every year," Barrow said. "By enhancing scientific training for new cures and treatments, this grant is one way we can help improve the quality of life for folks here in our country, and around the world."

According to information provided by MCG, Georgia possesses one of the highest rates of stroke in the nation, as it lies in the so-called "stroke-belt" along the southeastern United States. In addition, diabetic neuropathy, a peripheral nerve disorder caused by diabetes, is particularly prevalent among Georgia's African-American population.

In recognition of the significant problems that stroke and other neurodegenerative diseases pose to Georgia's population, the Medical College of Georgia has designated neuroscience as a priority area for research and growth, providing significant financial support and resources to support this targeted focus. The program is lead by world-renowned neuroscientist Dr. Robert Yu, Director of the Institute of Neuroscience and the Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics.

"As the flagship health science university for the State of Georgia, MCG is well positioned to assume a leadership role in neuroscience," Dr. Yu said. "In addition to the continued support of this institution and the State of Georgia, this grant will help dramatically advance the university's growing neuroscience program."

For more information on the Medical College of Georgia's Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics, visit: <http://www.mcg.edu/Institutes/IMMAG/> .

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